

MARIETTA DAILY LEADER

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We will consider it a great favor if subscribers will report any failure to get their Leader, or any carelessness on the part of the carrier.

Subscribers will please not pay the carriers unless the carrier punches his credit tag in subscriber's presence.

It is asserted that Tom Platt's Morton boom has been launched in Ohio, but the feeling grows that it has stuck on the ways. At any rate the spectators have not seen anything yet.

The statement of Mr. John Kaiser appearing in Tuesday's Leader corrected an entirely wrong impression that had gone abroad in connection with the electric railway franchise applied for by Messrs. Gracey, Kaiser & Moore. These gentlemen now, as a year ago, do not ask that the profits of the railway venture be made secure by the sale to them of the city light plant at a bargain figure and the purchase from them of the city street lights at a correspondingly princely figure. They are willing to construct, equip and operate an electric street railway independent of other considerations and do not solicit pay for taking the franchise. This removes the street railway feature entirely from the proposed improvement of the city light plant and at the same time destroys the first, last and only argument against the issue of the bonds to be voted upon next Monday. Assuming that Council has the welfare and growth of the city at heart and that they will follow the recommendation of the light committee, which declares unequivocally in favor of granting the franchise to Messrs. Gracey, Kaiser & Moore, the electric street railway may be counted upon as an assured fact.

The Harris local option bill is the chief legislative topic now before the people of Ohio. Briefly, the bill provides for local option by counties as well as townships, and requires the question to be submitted to a vote every two years. By its provisions it would be possible for a number of townships in favor of local option and having a large vote to enforce prohibition upon another township or townships having a smaller vote, though the latter might not desire it.

Politically considered from a Republican standpoint the bill may prove another case of "didn't know it was loaded," with the usual disastrous results to the party. We certainly hope the stand the Leader has always taken on the liquor question will preserve us against the accusation of defending the traffic when we express doubt as to the wisdom, policy or probable effectiveness of the proposed new bill. The Republican party, which has given the temperance people of the State all the beneficial legislation they have received, and which on occasion has suffered by so doing, must shoulder the responsibility of the Harris bill if it is enacted into law. "Look before you leap," has always been good advice and it applies now. The existing Dow law is conceded to have so far been effective and just in its restrictions and has been satisfactory in general. Should further restriction be deemed advisable there is the plan, easy of fulfillment, of increasing the tax. Representative Leland, of Noble county, has drafted a bill to amend the Dow law, increasing the tax to \$500, and to go into effect on May 1, next. The Dow tax law was passed May 14, 1889, when a tax of \$200 was placed on the liquor traffic. On March 26, 1888, the tax was raised to \$250, the state receiving the extra \$50. Mr. Leland's bill amends the distribution of the money as follows: Under the present law the state receives 2-10, which is increased to 3-10; the poor fund now gets 3-10; the police fund now gets 6-10 of the tax collected, which is reduced to 4-10. The penalty for non-payment is now \$500, which is raised to \$1000, and the requirement made that it shall be collected and enforced unless the tax is paid by June 20 and Dec. 20.

FASHIONS IN RINGS.

In Nero's time there was a fashion prevalent of wearing large rings, the setting of which was carved with the bust of the special divinity who was the wearer's patron.

Parade rings were greatly worn in Italy three centuries ago. They were very wide and bore on the circumference representations of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

When the tomb of the great Emperor Frederick, who died in 1250, was opened in 1780, his coronation ring, set with a beautiful emerald, was still found upon his finger.

The ring of Edward the Confessor is preserved among the royal regalia of Great Britain. For several centuries it was used in the coronation ceremonies of the English kings.

In the Etruscan tombs of northern Italy gold rings have been found made in the shape of a cord, a large knot of intricate pattern forming the principal part of the ornament.

NEWS OF THE FIELD.

What The Operators are Doing in Different Parts of the State.

SISTERSVILLE, Dec. 28.—The Fisher Oil company have a fishing job at their No. 3 on the Judge lease.

There are now about 10 wells drilling out on Indian creek, and there will be several more started this week.

There was no change in the price of credit balances today.

McGuire & Co's well on the Thorn farm is getting along nicely and will be due very shortly.

Crawford & Treat's No. 3, on the Stewart farm, will be due in the sand tomorrow night or Wednesday morning.

Ramey & Co's well on the Frank Dye farm is drilling at about 600 feet.

Gaffney & Co. have made a location and will commence drilling a well in a couple of days on the Stewart farm north of the Calebaugh.

Ellenboro, W. Va., January 27.—Several car loads of two-inch pipe have arrived here this week, and will be used in laying the pipe line from Whisky run to the main line, near the Mahon well, on Sugar creek.

The owners of the old Hamilton well have had a force of men at work all week cleaning out the hole, preparing it for a shot, which will likely increase the flow of oil, and after a long delay the public will know what the well is good for. A conservative estimate by those who should know put it down as a 20 barrel producer.

Last summer T. N. Barnsdall located a well on the Noah Williamson farm, on Rock run, but after having part of the rig timbers hauled to the ground, he suspended operations. Word now comes that he has changed the location to John Israel's farm, which is located a half mile nearer Whisky run, and is now erecting a derrick. This well will be an important test of a large section of country that has not, as yet, had a single well, and most operators have considerable faith in the territory.

In the Cairo field, the Marshall well, on Devil Hole, is the only "lame strike." This well has been shot and will probably be a 25 barrel pumper. It has caused the price of territory in the Devil Hole country to take a sudden increase in value, and some fancy prices have been paid for leases. Daniel Cokely leased 250 acres for \$250 bonus, and \$100 per month rental, until one well is completed on each twenty acres of his farm.

The John Cowan farm, south of Petroleum, is about to be thoroughly drilled for heavy oil, which is found in that section, usually in what is known as shallow wells. A twenty-year lease was taken on this farm about fifteen years ago, and by the terms of the lease the land owner was to receive one-fourth of all the production. This clause has been modified to conform with the usual lease of today, which allows one-eighth royalty. The specific gravity of the oil in the Petroleum and Volcano districts is 28 to 30 degrees, and is worth \$4.50 per barrel.

Col. T. M. Henderson, representing the Kanawha Oil Company, is leasing a large block of land in the southern part of this county near Pullman post-office.

A local company is organizing at Cornwall's, this county, to drill a test well at that place. Most of the capital stock has been subscribed for.

Steuensville, O., January 27.—The Given No. 8, on the Brew farm, was drilled into the sand today and made a good showing of oil and is thought to be good for forty barrels a day.

The reports printed generally that the well on the Burg Smith farm, near Beallsville, O., had come in Friday last, and was doing 10 barrels an hour, are incorrect. Mr. H. W. Wilson, of this city, was at the well yesterday. The drill was sent through the Big Injun sand, which was dry as a bone. The Mellon people own the well and hold all the territory. Yesterday afternoon they were at work pulling the casing and will abandon the territory.

The Monroe Doctrine.

ED. LEADER.—I notice in your valuable paper of the 24th, that Senator Wolcott, of Colorado, calls a halt on the Monroe Doctrine, and is thankful that he is of the same race as the English. I also am proud of being a descendant of the Anglo Saxon, but I cannot for the life of me see how any loyal American can feel proud of the English Government, and I would like to remind Mr. Wolcott or any other timid citizen that is advocating Pacific measures with England that it is not the fault of the English that we are a Great Nation, they started over a hundred years ago to keep us in slavery and squandered millions of dollars to make us bow to an imbecile, who they called King. And if the Continental Congress had been composed of such men as Mr. Wolcott, I believe that we today would be slaves of some European thing called King or Queen.

And a member of either house of Congress that cannot heartily support the President in the stand he has taken in regard to the Monroe Doctrine should be severely reprimanded if not expelled.

W. B. HITE.

The World's Fair Tests showed no baking powder so pure or so great in flavoring power as the Royal.

WHO WERE THE BUILDERS?

Remarkable Structures on an Island in a Florida Swamp.

How the Discovery Was Made—Perilous Exploration—A Deserted Village Diked by Five Miles of Almost Impassable Morass.

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Southern Florida is still, to a considerable extent, an unexplored country. Many of its immense swamps, full of rank tangled vegetation and almost bottomless mud, have never yet been penetrated by white men. There are places covered by a few inches of water, where a pole may be thrust down 20 feet without touching anything solid; where it is impossible to sink or swim, and any animal stepping upon the treacherous surface is drowned.

Near a great swamp of this character lived recently a hunter named James Singletary; but though raised on its border, he had never penetrated it



"BY WHOM WERE THEY BUILT?"

more than a mile or so; nor had any man, so far as was known, gone further.

Singletary, who was noted for his skill as a turkey hunter, had long been puzzled by the fact that turkeys flushed near the swamp would often fly straight into it, where, as far as he knew, there was neither feeding ground nor resting place. Time and again he followed as far as he dared, only to find that the birds had gone into deeper recesses; and he would wait in vain for their return. He might find the flock on the old ground a week or a month later, but where had they been in the interval?

Puzzled over the matter, he argued: "Turkeys do not go 25 or 30 miles to feed, and then return. There must be high ground not very far from the swamp to which they go to feed or escape pursuit. If so, it may be worth investigating. It may be a regular feeding and breeding place for turkeys; it may be stocked with bear and deer; or there may be Indian mounds and buried treasure; and it may not be so very hard to get to, who knows?"



THEY WADED IN WATER KNEE DEEP.

He often talked the matter over with his neighbor Joe Evans, also a skilled and resolute hunter, and at last they determined to make the attempt.

Accordingly, they started on a bright morning; each carrying a small hatchet, hunting knife, rifle, compass, a coil of rope and a small rubber bag containing provisions and ammunition.

The first half mile was easily passed. Beyond that lay unknown dangers and difficulties. Progress was slow; every step had to be cautious. They proceeded in single file, some distance apart, and connected by a rope knotted around their bodies, so that if the leader should step into a bog, quicksand, or alligator's hole, the other would pull him out.

Often for hundreds of yards, wading in water and slime knee deep, they had to cut a passage with their hatchets through the dense undergrowth. Often they came to boggy places, which could only be avoided by long detours to the right or left. Occasionally there was a narrow lane of deep water where it was necessary to swim.

Animal life was chiefly represented by alligators and snakes, and care had to be used to avoid stepping into the jaws of one or being bitten by the other. Many of the "gators" were 12 to 16 feet long, and showed little fear of the strangers or disposition to yield the way; while the cotton-mouth moccasins, more dreaded than rattlesnakes, because equally venomous and more vicious, were numerous.

At noon they rested awhile on a big cypress log, and estimated that they had penetrated the swamp about 1½

miles, in a straight line. All the afternoon they pressed on, making somewhat better progress, and at sundown reached a spot of open cypress, where the ground, though soggy, was now free from surface water. They estimated that they were about 3½ miles direct from their starting place. Here they built a fire and camped for the night. They determined to start at daybreak the next morning and go on until noon, unless high ground should be discovered sooner; if nothing was reached by noon, they would turn back.

They were waked with the earliest glimmer of the next day by the trumpeting of flamingoes, the squawking of herons and the bellowing of "gators" and croaking of frogs. As soon as it was light enough to see they started on.

Just before noon they were rewarded by a glimpse of high land ahead, which was reached at last by swimming through a few yards of deep water, beyond which the bluff banks of a high hammock island came sloping down.

It rose at least 20 feet above the surrounding swamp, contained perhaps five acres, and was covered by a dense growth of live oak, rubber, mastie and magnolia trees, with very little undergrowth. Our adventurers estimated they were five miles from the edge of the swamp, and, naturally, supposed that theirs were the first human footsteps to tread this beautiful but inaccessible spot. What, then, was their surprise to find near the center of the island five or six ancient buildings, now rotting down, but in a fair state of preservation.

They were all one-story high, some with two and others with only one large room, and were built entirely of hewed logs and rived boards of cypress wood. The logs, hewed to a straight edge on four sides, were laid with the broad faces down, dove-tailed together at the corners and chinked with a kind of concrete which had become as hard as stone, making the walls tight and solid. The floors were made of smaller tim-

bers, hewed to about four inches in thickness, and showed the wear, seemingly, of several generations of constant use. In each building there were loop holes, but whether for guns or bows and arrows could not be told; and there were pegs and shelves on which to hang or place household articles.

Evidently the work had not been done by Indians. By whom, then, and what had become of the builders? Singletary and Evans staid two days, seeking in vain for some solution, and then returned. The news of their discovery awakened great interest, but no one was found who could throw any light on the subject.

In the absence of certain knowledge, there are conjectures; some of which at least seem plausible. All trace of a Spanish colony on the southern gulf coast of Florida, antedating the foundation of St. Augustine, was lost, and what became of them has never been known. They may have been the builders.

In the early part of the century many negro slaves, escaping from owners in Georgia and the Carolinas, took refuge with the Indians in Florida; and a party of these, under an able and resolute leader, may have been driven to the swamp to escape pursuers, and discovering the islands, may have built these houses. Here, at least, they could be free.

Or the builders may have been refugees from justice, or from religious persecution—who knows?

R. G. ROBINSON.

Our Hat Trade

Has grown wonderfully and our spring stock just in, was bought to supply the increased demand. We have a very few old styles on hand that will be sold at one-third first cost.

We have sold a great many of those odd pants, left from suits, but still have a considerable quantity to select from at prices from 35c to \$4.00. ALL ARE BARGAINS.

What we have left of heavy weight suits, overcoats, reefers, etc., will be sold at A PRICE because we NEVER let old stock accumulate.

S. R. Van Metre & Co.,

The Old Reliable Cash Clothiers.

A "Before Inventory"

CLEARING SALE

We will be ready in a week or two to count up stock; before that time every over-loaded department must be reduced to invoice at the right figures. No need to bother you with any excuses or admission of mistakes. A long-drawn-out merchandise story is a bore. Tomorrow we offer the following: Woolen Hose, Blankets, Furs, Woolen Underwear, Mittens, Gloves, etc., etc. Not a word about their cheapness or quality; you are the best judge.

Knox, Jenvey & Allen, No. 168 Front Street.

"Cleanliness

IN NEXT TO

Godliness"

So they say. We can't call to mind at this writing who the author is of the above, but nevertheless you will acknowledge it is true. Of course that applies as well to the "teeth" and "face" as to anything else. We have the largest assortment of "popular tooth preparation" and "tooth brushes" also the largest assortment of "fine soaps" in the city. So next time you are in need of any of the above buy them of us and then you will be in line with "Cleanliness is next to Godliness."

Putnam Street Pharmacy.

Closing Out Sale

of Ladies Fur Capes.

Genuine Persian Lamb, 30 in. long, 100 in. sweep, former price \$50.00, now \$30.00.
Genuine Wool Seal, 30 in. long, 100 in. sweep, former price \$40.00, now \$24.00.
Labrador Wool Seal, 30 in. long, 100 in. sweep, former price \$30.00, now \$19.00.
Electric Seal, 30 in. long, 100 in. sweep, former price \$40.00, now \$28.00.
Astrachan, 30 in. long, 100 in. sweep, former price \$30.00, now \$19.00.
Astrachan, 30 in. long, 100 in. sweep, former price \$15.00, now \$8.25.
French Coney, 30 in. long, 100 in. sweep, former price \$12.00, now \$7.50.
French Coney, 27 in. long, 100 in. sweep, former price \$9.00, now \$4.75.

We will move in room now occupied by C. W. Woodin about February 1st, 1896.

W. A. Sniffen's Hat Store.

Facts.

All should know. The unnecessary fuel consumed in cast stoves, and food spoiled by imperfect baking, added together every two years, are equal in value to all the stoves and ranges in the United States. Yet housekeepers say "I have a good stove now, but will buy a

Majestic Steel Range

later." Many keep steadily on consuming extra fuel, putting up with imperfect baking and only partly heating water, when they could save money by buying a MAJESTIC and throwing their old stove out of doors.

The Majestic Steel Range is no experiment; it took 30 years to perfect it.

NYE HARDWARE CO.,

170 Front Street,

SOLE AGENTS,

Marietta, Ohio